

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 09988 132020Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 09988

PERSONAL FROM THE AMBASSADOR FOR ADMIRAL MOORER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, SP
SUBJECT: USE OF ROTA FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF NATO
EXERCISES

REF: CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON 051808Z DEC 77

1. AS YOU KNOW FROM YOUR VISIT TO MADRID IN MID-NOVEMBER, I AM VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY AT ROTA. IN THE CASE DEALT WITH IN YOUR DECEMBER 5 MESSAGE -- SORTIES BY P-3 AIRCRAFT STATIONED AT ROTA IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF U.S. SURFACE FORCES INVOLVED IN NATO EXERCISES -- I DO NOT BELIEVE THE RISK OF INCURRING SPANISH DISPLEASURE IS SO GREAT AS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE FOR THE EXECUTION OF OUR OVERALL POLICY TOWARD SPAIN AND FOR OUR EFFORTS TO GUIDE THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

2. STILL, WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT WE
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CONTINUE TO FACE CERTAIN SPANISH SENSITIVITIES THAT NATO IS DERIVING BENEFITS FROM OUR BILATERAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT OTHER NATO MEMBERS' HAVING TO MAKE CORRESPONDING GESTURES TOWARD SPAIN. MOREOVER, THE PRESENT POSTURE OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS THAT IT IS NEITHER IN ITS INTEREST NOR OURS TO PRECIPITATE A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE QUESTIONS OF NATO OR U.S.

USES OF SPANISH BASE FACILITIES AT THIS TIME. WE CAN NOT ASSUME SPANISH GOVERNMENT ACQUIESCENCE IN THE SORTIES DURING EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION, SINCE THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THE GOS HAD KNOWLEDGE.

3. IN THE CASE OF EXERCISE OPEN GATE, THIS HAS IN RECENT PAST YEARS, EVEN WITHOUT THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. UNITS IN SPAIN, LED TO QUESTIONS FROM THE SPANISH MINDS WITH GIBRALTAR.

4. ALL THIS LEADS ME TO CONCLUDE THAT WE MIGHT CONTINUE WITH THE SORTIES BY ROTA-BASED P-3'S BUT THAT WE SHOULD KEEP IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH REGARDING THEM, IN PARTICULAR SHOULD ANY CHANGE IN THE PATTERN BE PLANNED. STABLER

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